

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A program product, comprising:

a program linking program recorded on a storage medium for causing a computer having a memory to function at least as:

linking means for linking ~~at least one of a plurality of~~ unlinked programs for each of a plurality of to form a pre-linked program for linked programs advancing toward the completion of ~~the plurality of a linked programs~~ program;

storage means for storing the ~~plurality of linked programs~~ pre-linked program in the memory ~~either before or after completion of the linked program~~; and,

management means for causing the linking means to preferentially perform linking of the plurality of unlinked programs, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order ~~and to such that a maximum cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is limit~~ within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, wherein the predetermined priority order is ~~selected from at least one of: an~~ increasing order of frequency of use of each of the plurality of unlinked programs to create the ~~plurality of linked programs~~ pre-linked program.

~~increasing order of size of each of the plurality of unlinked programs such that a program size of each of the plurality of linked programs is not always reduced;~~

~~increasing order of product of frequency of use of each of the plurality of unlinked programs to create the plurality of linked programs and a size of a corresponding one of the plurality of unlinked programs;~~

~~decreasing order of time for linking each of the plurality of unlinked programs upon execution; and~~

~~decreasing order of execution frequency of each of the plurality of unlinked programs accompanying execution of the plurality of linked programs.~~

2. (Currently amended) The program product according to claim 1, wherein the management

means causes the linking means to perform linking, and as a result determines the maximum limit cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs.

3. (Currently amended) The program product according to claim 1, wherein the management means determines the maximum limit cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs by evaluating a the size of each of the plurality of linked programs at each stage of linking without causing the linking means to perform linking.

4-9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A program linking method, ~~comprising comprising:~~

linking ~~at least one of a plurality of unlinked programs for each of a plurality of linked programs to form a pre-linked program for~~ advancing toward the completion of the ~~plurality of a linked programs~~ program; and

storing in a memory the ~~plurality of linked programs either pre-linked program before or after completion of the linked program~~, wherein said

linking is performed preferentially, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order among the plurality of unlinked programs ~~and to such that a maximum limit a cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, and~~

wherein the predetermined priority order is ~~selected from at least one of:~~ an increasing order of frequency of use of each of the plurality of unlinked programs to create the ~~plurality of linked programs;~~ pre-linked program.

increasing order of size of each of the plurality of unlinked programs such that a ~~program size of the plurality of linked programs is not always reduced;~~

increasing order of product of frequency of use of each of the plurality of unlinked programs to create the ~~plurality of linked programs and a size of a corresponding one of the plurality of unlinked programs;~~

decreasing order of time for linking each of the plurality of unlinked programs on

~~execution; and~~

~~decreasing order of execution frequency of each of the plurality of unlinked programs accompanying execution of the plurality of linked programs.~~

11. (New) A program product comprising a program linking program recorded on a computer-readable storage medium for causing a computer having a memory function to function at least as:

linking means for linking a plurality of unlinked programs to form a pre-linked program for advancing toward the completion of a linked program;

storage means for storing the pre-linked program in the memory before completion of said linked program; and

management means for causing the linking means to preferentially perform linking of the plurality of unlinked programs, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order such that a cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, wherein the predetermined priority order is a decreasing order of time for linking each of the plurality of unlinked programs upon execution.

12. (New) A program linking method comprising:

linking a plurality of unlinked programs to form a pre-linked program for advancing toward the completion of a linked program;

storing the pre-linked program in the memory before completion of the linked program;
and

causing a linking means to preferentially perform linking of the plurality of unlinked programs, to form the pre-linked program, in a predetermined priority order such that a cumulative sum of sizes of the unlinked programs is within a range in which overflow of a predetermined capacity of the memory does not occur, wherein the predetermined priority order is a decreasing order of time for linking each of the plurality of unlinked programs upon execution.